

**Argumentative Essay Writing Rubric (Grades 6-11)**

Score	4	3	2	1	NS
Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization	<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">claim is clearly stated, focused and strongly maintainedalternate or opposing claims are clearly addressed¹claim is introduced and communicated clearly within the purpose, audience, and task <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideaslogical progression of ideas from beginning to endeffective introduction and conclusion for audience and purposestrong connections among ideas, with some syntactic variety <p>¹Beginning in 7th grade</p>	<p>The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">claim is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be presentalternate or opposing claims are included but may not be completely addressedcontext provided for the claim is adequate within the purpose, audience, and task <p>The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideasadequate progression of Ideas from beginning to endadequate introduction and conclusionadequate, if slightly inconsistent, connection among ideas	<p>The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">may be clearly focused on the claim but is insufficiently sustainedclaim on the issue may be somewhat unclear and unfocused <p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little varietyuneven progression of ideas from beginning to endconclusion and introduction, if present, are weakweak connection among ideas	<p>The response may be related to the topic but may offer little relevant detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">may be very briefmay have a major driftclaim may be confusing or ambiguous <p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">few or no transitional strategies are evidentfrequent extraneous ideas may intrude	<p>Non-scorable code: Insufficient, illegible, foreign language, incoherent, off-topic, or off-purpose writing</p>

*The Final Score will be the sum of all three domains.

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Evidence/Elaboration	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of evidence from sources is cited, smoothly integrated, comprehensive, relevant, and concrete• effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques <p>The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer's claim that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves some depth and specificity but is predominantly general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise• adequate use of some elaborative techniques <p>The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer's claim that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details, and achieves little depth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven• weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques <p>The response expresses Ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of domain-specific vocabulary may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer's claim that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant <p>The response's expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary• may have little sense of audience and purpose	<p>Non-scorable code: Insufficient, illegible, foreign language, incoherent, off-topic, or off-purpose writing</p>
Score	N/A	N/A	2	1	0
Conventions/Editing	(2-point rubric begins at score point 2)	(2-point rubric begins at score point 2)	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• some errors in usage and sentence formation are present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed• adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling	<p>The response demonstrates partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• errors in usage may obscure meaning• inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling	<p>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscure